

ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a method and apparatus for separating oil seeds, for example canola seeds, on the basis of ripeness. Components of a seed mixture are fed onto a flat plate such that the seeds are allowed to roll generally independently. The flat plate is positioned to decline downwardly from the feed end to the discharge end so as to allow the components to be separated by rolling at different rates according to the ripeness of the seeds. A collection means at the discharge end of the flat plate is adapted for selectively collecting, at one or more timed intervals, the components of the seed mixture such that ripe seeds are separated as the earliest to reach the discharge end of the plate.